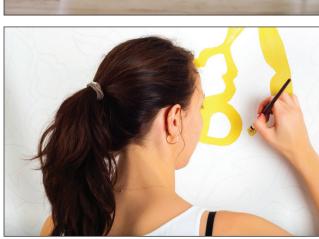


Home Improvement: Spring 2021 A special supplement to the Marion Chronicle-Tribune,

Wabash Plain Dealer, Huntington Herald-Press, Peru Tribune and Frankfort Times



















E2 March 27-28, 2021 Chronicle-Tribune

A passion for restoration

Local expert shares tips and tricks from personal experience renovating historic homes in northern Indiana

By KARA KAVENSKY

When Dr. Jill Snyder was young, her parents bought a 1920s home at an auction and saved it from being split into apartments.

Her parents were meticulous in preserving its historic value, and now she is carrying on that tradition.

"Witnessing my parents restore that home sparked my passion for historic design and architecture," said Dr. Snyder, who knew she wanted to become a dentist after writing a report in health class when she was in the seventh grade.

Dr. Snyder has been in Frankfort going on 30 years. Originally, her practice was downtown on the corner of Washington and Jackson streets. The building has since burnt down (after she moved out). She built her current office on Jackson Street using a local architect, which was her first experience with constructing a commercial building. Five years later, she built a home on the outskirts of town and learned a lot through that experience as well.

In 2012, Dr. Snyder started purchasing property in downtown Frankfort. Her first foray into restoration was the purchase of houses at 2, 6, and 8 on South Main Street. The building had a fire and had been shut down, but Dr. Snyder was attracted to the building's original doors and trim.

"Much of the original woodwork spoke to me," shared Dr. Snyder, who salthe back door and repurposed it into the railing in one of the apartments.

infrastructure to bring the building back up to code after the fire, she said.

Then 51 West Clinton St. came up for sale and 58-62 W. Washington St., which houses Colourz Hair Salon, Delilah's Boutique and the Frank Harness Karate USA studio on its main level. Dr. Snyder also owns the property adjacent to 51 West Clinton St., which she purchased specifically for the parking lot. Each of these properties have been renovated by her brother and a small crew from DC Enterprises.

Snyder spoke about what she looks for when it comes to looking for items to sal-

"For each of my buildings I have tried to keep as much of the historic properties that I could," she said. "Every time we need a door, we first checked our collection of doors to see if one will fit the space. I especially like to keep the historic trims. We actually removed all the wainscoting and trim from the hallway on the second floor of 2 S. Main where the Roxy apartments are now located and later reinstalled it so that the hallway looks as much like the original as possible, with modern up-

Dr. Synder says that wood is the easiest material to repurpose and reuse.

'When we were remodeling 51 West, we saved all the wood that we could -2x4s, 2x6s, ceiling joists, and maple flooring," she said. "Part of the maple flooring was repurposed as an architecvaged the security gate over tural feature in the conference room. The 2x4s were used within the new walls, and many of the 2x6s were This renovation was a slow re-cut for support walls or



AARON KENNEDY / akennedv@ftimes.com

Apartment 105 at The Roxy, which Dr. Snyder calls "The Jewel," has the most noticeable salvaged materials. The bannister incorporates the iron security doors and iron bars and grates that had covered windows. In March, Dr. Snyder's brother Joe was in the basement and found an old iron plate that was from a Jewel brand stove. When she saw it, she knew it would be perfect to complete the banister. These, along with various woods were used to create the banister for the loft in The Jewel apartment.

them as the vanity fronts in The Roxy apartments. I wanted an open shelf vanity and the ceiling joist pieces were the perfect size. At 51 West, the women's restroom features the small doors and trim that were originally closets on the second floor of 2 S, Main St.

transfer was the transom window on the mezzanine of 51 West," Snyder continued. "Originally, the window was hidden in the back interior wall of the 2 S. Main building, where a lower level apartment had been built. They had actually in- doesn't need to go to salstalled a drop ceiling across it. Fortunately, none of the glass blocks were damaged. process due to the necessary trim. The ceiling joists have There are limited photos of have recycled have come Roxy took nearly two years more.'

been repurposed multiple the 2 S. Main building from my buildings," she to complete. It took about so I didn't know if it was while, I will find something remodel 51 West." original to the building or or my brother will from the would be a perfect show-The transom window allows some natural light into the "The other major find and area but is protected from the weather. I did some in- like flooring and wainscotvestigation into the company that made the blocks for the transom. The decorative rosette blocks were designed for the company by Frank Lloyd Wright.'

> Snyder says she usually vage yards to find materials to repurpose.

was torn down. It takes a been lost in the process. great deal of time and care most builders would rather tear things up and throw de-nailing process takes care. The remodel the sec-Main into the seven apart-

ways. My favorite is using the Clinton Street view, said. "Every once in a the same length of time to

If Snyder had demolished not. When I purchased the outside. For instance, the everything and put in all old Coulter Furniture store four secondary ballroom new, each of her projects building, where 51 West is chandeliers and the wall would have taken a year or now located, I realized it sconces (in 51 West) were less to complete. In doing it recycled from the Ramada expeditiously, all of the hispiece for the mezzanine. hotel in Lafayette before it tory and beauty would have

"I really could go through to preserve and reuse things every room in 51 West and every apartment at The ing and trim. This is why Roxy and tell a person what was new and what was recycled, where it came from, them away since it's more how it was repurposed," efficient to buy new. The says Dr. Snyder. "It's important to preserve the hispatience and tender loving tory of Frankfort. These buildings were well-built ond floor of 2, 6 and 8 South and have stood for over 100 years, and I hope they "Most of the things we ments that make up The will be here for at least 100

How to choose the right lighting inside your home

By METROCREATIVE

Lighting in a home serves both practical and aesthetic purposes. It's easy to maneuver around a well-lit home, reducing the risk of slips and falls, and the right lighting can help homeowners create their desired ambiance, which typically changes depending on which room you're in.

When choosing lighting for their homes, homeowners must walk a fine line between appearance and functionality. A fixture in the foyer that instantly impresses visitors likely won't prove as awe-inspiring if it's installed in the living room. When choosing lighting for a home, some general rules about what works in each room can help homeowners make the most informed decision.

Kitchen

busiest room in a home, so lighting here can be especially important. A kitchen often benefits, both practically and aesthetically, from different types of lighting. For example, pendant lighting above kitchen islands can make meal preparation easier and safer, but such lighting likely won't work in breakfast nooks and informal dining areas in the kitchen. Recessed lighting works best in such areas. In kitchens with no island, under-cabinet lighting can be used to illuminate countertops and simplify meal preparation.

Formal dining room

Many people enjoy the

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Kitchens are often the look of chandeliers in formal dining rooms, and such fixtures can be installed directly above the dinner table. The interior design experts at Better Homes & Gardens advise hanging chandeliers roughly 33 inches above the table in dining rooms with eight-foot ceilings, adding three inches for each additional foot above eight feet. Darkened dining areas may be ideal in restaurants, but homeowners may want to split the difference at home and choose dimmable chandeliers for their dining rooms. This allows homeowners to dim the lights for romantic dinners but turn them up for family gatherings with lots of people around the table.

NICK YEAKLE

KINGDOM Roofing Systems Jr. Project Advisor



Adaptability also is important in the living room, where homeowners may host any-

track lighting. If the living room currently has neither style, homeowners should thing from movie nights recognize that it will cost to book clubs to parties for considerably less to install the big game. It can be a track lighting than recessed tall order to accommodate lighting. Better Homes &

tween recessed lighting and and track lights can even be moved to change lighting schemes at any time, making them a budget-friendly option for homeowners whose living rooms are multi-purpose spaces. Recessed lighting also works well in living rooms, especially ones with low ceilings. That's because peal.

Photo provided

recessed lighting is installed into the ceiling, meaning it does not take up any visual space in the room. That can help living rooms feel bigger.

Bedroom

The home improvement experts at BobVila.com note that bedroom lighting should provide enough light when getting dressed, but also be able to be toned down as residents prepare for their bedtime routines. Both portable and installed lighting can be used in bedrooms to serve these various functions. Recessed fixtures that dim can ensure there's ample light to get dressed in the morning, but they also can be dimmed at night as residents try to get ready to sleep. Portable nightstand lights can make it easier for couples sharing a bedroom, allowing one person to stay up and read while the other goes to sleep.

Homeowners have many options and many needs when choosing lighting for their homes. A professional consultation with a lighting expert or interior decorator can help homeowners find lights that provide both practical and aesthetic ap-

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Chronicle-Tribune March 27-28, 2021 **E3**

'Prep work is the key to success'

To enjoy a refinished deck this summer, put in the time to do the job right, expert says

By JARED KEEVER

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decks in Hoosier backyards, homeowners' thoughts probably turned to barbestars, but some may have noticed that the outdoor gathering space off the pa-

A fresh coat of stain or wood sealer can spruce up the weathered boards of a home's deck nicely, but for a couple of days at least Anita Schetzsle, the manager of the Sherwin Williams store in downtown Peru, says homeowners shouldn't rush right into.

"Staining is a little different than painting," Schetzsle said. "Prep work is the key to success, especially when it comes to decks."

that 90 percent of deck coatof improper or incomplete prep work.

The first step in the process is to determine if the deck has been stained or treated before.

If not, Schetzsle recommends letting those new open up and be able to aconce it is applied.

Once that season is past, the deck still needs to be properly cleaned before a coating is applied.

If the deck has been ily better than the other. stained or treated before, but is due for a new coat, the best thing is to get rid of what is already there.

"Our recommendation is going to be to take it off," Schetzsle said.

Many popular manufac- away.

turers like Cabot Stains or Olympic offer products for such a job. At Sherwin Wil-As the snow melted from liams it can be done with the company's SuperDeck Stain & Sealer Remover.

After following the dicues and evenings under the rections on the packaging, the next step is to apply the SuperDeck Revive product which "neutralizes" the surtio door was looking a little face of the wood after the remover has been used.

Then don't do anything, at least for a while.

"Let it dry out in the sun before you apply the new coating," Schetzsle said.

If a finish product hasn't been chosen, one can be selected during the drying-out

Choices range from a simple clear sealer to solid color stains. A clear sealer simply protects the wood with no She said experts estimate pigment included. A transparent stain includes some ing failures happen because light pigment but allows the wood's texture and grain through. A semi-transparent stain includes richer pigment but still allows the wood's grain and texture to show through. Beyond that there are semi-solid stains that are heavily pigmented and allow boards weather at least a only some of the wood grain season to let the wood grain to show through or solid color stains that hide the grain cept the finishing product but still allow the texture of the wood through.

Although the more solid stains offer some additional protection from the sun's rays, no product is necessar-

"It really is just personal preference," Schetzsle said. Once selected, the coating needs to be applied, and Schetzsle recommends re-

sisting the urge to simply roll the product on and walk





A display at the Sherwin Williams store in Peru shows the choices homeowners have for finishing their wooden decks.

stains rather top coats like sure it is properly applied. paint, they benefit from being worked into the wood.

"Instead of just rolling as well: it out you want to push it

ers really should follow be- stained.

Because deck products are hind with a brush to make

Sherwin Williams' website offers a few other tips

■ Before applying stain, down into the grain," she make sure your deck has ture and humidity, allow been cleaned properly. That means rolling it on is Sprinkle some water on the OK to get the product onto deck. If the droplets sink the surface, but homeown- in, the wood is ready to be



Photos by JARED KEEVER / ikeever@perutribune.com Products for cleaning and preparing, as well as for refinishing, wooden decks sit on a display at the Sherwin Williams store in

■ For best results, avoid staining at midday or in direct sunlight. If a second hours between applications.

■ Depending on tempera-24 - 48 hours of dry time before using your restored deck or porch.

the deck will look refreshed. riod of time.

How long?

Hard to say, according to Schetzsle. Decks take a lot coat is required, wait four of abuse and how long the coating will stay looking new depends on too many factors, including which direction a deck faces, how much sun or shade it gets and just how harsh the Once the project is done weather is over a given pe-

Low-maintenance alternatives to traditional grass lawns

By METROCREATIVE

A traditional lawn may not is not practical can explore some low-maintenance alternatives.

Wildflower meadow

Homeowners with wide swaths of property may discover meadows are costand time-efficient. Stores sell special wildflower meadow mixes of seeds or homeowners can use wildflower plug plants throughto wildlife and an idyllic backdrop to a home. Most spring or summer and autumn cut to thrive and look good.

Ornamental grasses

Partition areas of the propbe right for every property erty for ornamental grasses can reduce maintenance in nor desired by every home- to grow. The gardening the landscape and require owner. There is no denying resource Elemental Green very little upkeep. When that lawns take time and says ornamental grasses gravel is installed correctly, effort to establish and daily tend to be drought-resistant weeds may not grow readior weekly maintenance to and low-maintenance. They thrive. Homeowners who won't need much fertilizer include laying heavy-duty, find that a traditional lawn and are often resistant to semi-permeable landscape pests as well. Ornamental fabric, which is available grasses grow in tufts or in home improvement cenmowing. However, they are not ideal for areas that get beautiful. foot traffic.

Moss

Moss can thrive in shady areas and ones where the soil tends to stay a bit tificial grass options on the damp. Moss is velvety soft and green, so it can mimout areas where grasses are ic the look of a traditionleft to grow longer. This al lawn but won't require natural area can be a home mowing and other upkeep. Because it spreads quickly, moss can take over quite meadows only require a rapidly. You will need to protect areas where you do not want moss by creating barriers to stop spread.

Gravel

Stone and gravel areas ly. Gravel installation may sprays and will not require ters. Gravel is cheaper than pavers and can be just as

Artificial turf

If the desired look is a lawn without all the upkeep, there are various armarket. Homeowners who opt for artificial turf can save money and space devoted to lawn mowers and

other lawn tools. Grass may be ideal for some, but there are alternatives for people who have troublesome landscapes or desire a low-maintenance product for their homes.







E4 March 27-28, 2021 Chronicle-Tribune

Keeping cool while saving money

Experts give tips on how to keep your air conditioning unit working at its best during hot summer months By MARKUS MILLER news@ftimes.com

Indiana summers can get hot and muggy, and another one is right around the corner. Hoosiers know both the importance and relief that a properly-working air conditioning unit and smooth-operating HVAC system can provide to a home.

Ideally, heating and coolchecked annually, experts say, to avoid issues. An annual check from heating and cooling experts like Albaugh can both save money in the long-run for consumers and help them avoid costly breakdowns that can leave them without air-condition-

"Your HVAC system should be serviced once a year to maintain proper efficiencies," Andrew Albaugh, of Albaugh Heating & Cooling in Frankfort, said. "For air conditioning, it should be in the spring or summer, and it should be done around the same time each year."

In addition to surprising breakdowns, operating without an annual check-up can eventually lead to performance dwindling and energy costs rising.

"By keeping (HVAC) checked up and serviced, owners should ensure there's and your home."

you keep everything work- optimum space around the on your utility bill and the the heating and cooling seasons."

A check-up can also reveal that cheaper, less-expensive instead of more expensive parts.

"We check everything to make sure there's not something small, like a weak capacitor, for example, that's causing a motor to fail. That's a lot less expensive item than replacing a motor," Albaugh said.

A study from Warner Service, an HVAC maintenance ing systems should be company, found that only 42 percent of homeowners have a professional perform routine maintenance, and air conditioners that undergo regular maintenance last 40 percent longer.

Albaugh estimates that a properly installed and maintained unit can last up to 25 years, but that the average unit he sees in the area only lasts around 10 to 15.

In addition to routine maintenance, there are multiple ways area homeowners can ensure lower energy costs and an efficient air conditioner during the summer a good, trustworthy, local months.

During hot summer days, HVAC units are taxed more and each component wears faster. Keeping the system clean and free of debris can allow for a smoother and quieter system.

Albaugh said that home-

ing at the performance it outside unit and that surwas when it was new," Al- rounding it with a fence baugh said. "It lets you save or shrubs can increase the workload for the outside cost of maintenance during unit. He also advised blowing grass clippings away from the outdoor unit when mowing in the summer.

In terms of the interior sysparts are causing problems tems, keeping a clean filter can help homeowners avoid an unnecessary service call.

Cleaning the small drain pipe that clears moisture from HVAC units can also help in avoiding problems or emergency service.

The Refrigeration School Inc, a trade school, recommends installing a smart thermostat, such as a Nest Thermostat.

An article on the school's website entitled, "Air Conditioning Tips for Summer to Keep Cool and Cut Down on Costs," stated that a smart thermostat can save consumers, on average, \$131-145 a year.

Dialing the temperature back is also a way of saving money. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends setting thermostats at 78 degrees Fahrenheit.

Either way, yearly checks are the most important forms of maintenance.

"If someone doesn't have contractor, I'd suggest they find one in their area," Albaugh said. "Try to find a trusted HVAC company, and have their units serviced. It's best to have the same company year after year since they'll have more familiarity with the system

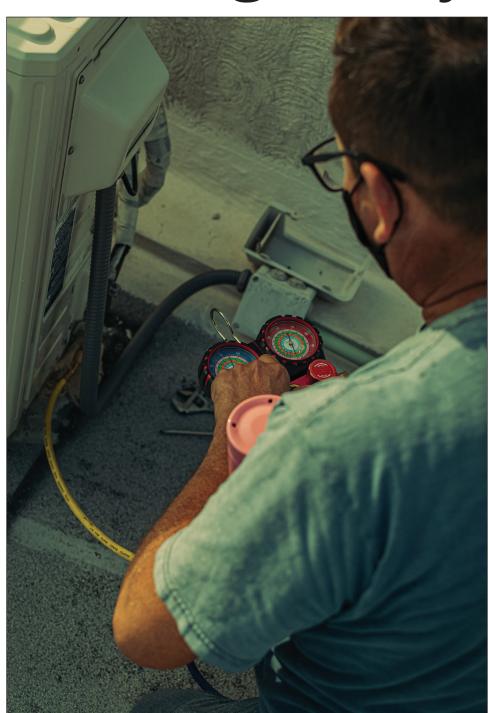


Photo provided

The average timelines for popular renovation projects

By METROCREATIVE

Home renovation projects are significant undertakings. Working with skilled and experienced contractors can ensure projects go smoothly and are completed promptly. Timing is a big consideration for homeowners as they begin renovating their homes, and the home improvement experts at HomeAdvisor note that the following are some general timelines for popular

renovation projects. **■ Home addition:** Short of a full-scale demolition and rebuild, home additions are the most time-consuming projects homeowners can undertake. HomeAdvisor notes that its survey of customers who recently completed home addition projects reported that the average time from start to finish was between three and four months. Certain variables, including the scale of the project and the local permits process, can extend the time it takes to complete a home addition.

■ Kitchen remodel: Scale is a big factor to consider when estimating the time it takes to complete various home improvement projects, and kitchen remodels are no exception. Some HomeAdvisor users reported projects

though the average time reported was roughly six weeks. Projects that require major overhauls like rearranging the plumbing and moving walls will likely take longer than

more cosmetic projects. **■** Bathroom More than 1,000 homeowners reported that bathroom remodels took about 4.5 weeks

scale remodels that focus on painting the walls a fresh color and replacing existing tiles can be completed in less than fixtures and removing walls **remodel:** figure to take much longer.

■ Siding installation: surveyed by HomeAdvisor HomeAdvisor users report that new siding projects take roughly two weeks from start

placing and installing.



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Chronicle-Tribune March 27-28, 2021 **E5**

Making the right investment to stay cool

Local pool experts provide tips and tricks on choosing between pools, spas and hot tubs

By KING CORDELL

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Pools, spas and hot tubs are big investments. If you're considering getting one this summer, here's what you need to know.

While in-ground pools come with a higher price tag, they can add significant value to a home, unlike less-permanent options.

If you're not too concerned about raising your home's price tag, local experts say you can get the same benefits as a fancy inground pools with a fraction of the cost.

How much does it cost?

Costs are as diverse as the pools themselves. The following numbers are provided to give a ballpark range of prices, but the exact numbers will vary widely based on location, retailer, quality and amenities.

Spas and hot tubs can cost from \$3,000 - \$15,000, depending on size and quality.

Top of the line above ground pools can typically go over \$10,000, but there are cheaper options, like inflatables, that can be purchased for a few hundred bucks.

An in-ground pool will be at least \$30,000, and depending on the type of surface you buy and how large you go, they can cost upwards of \$100,000.

Installation or repairs will be somewhere in the \$200-\$500 range.

Combined costs of electricity, water, chemicals and maintenance will usually take a few hundred dollars a year.



Photo provided

How do you maintain a pool/spa?

Maintenance is "really quite easy," according to Kathy Jackson, who operates Water World alongside months. her husband. They have a shop in Marion and one in Huntington, and were more than happy to provide some tips on keeping your water crystal clear.

The simplest solution is to keep up with your chemicals. Check alkalinity, pH and chlorine on a weekly basis. Other chemicals are responsible for killing bac-

teria and negating chlorine to broken lines and dam- break down much more side-effects – Water World sells dispensers which only have to be replaced every four months, and algaecide chemicals which last for 3

But some types of pools have their own unique considerations. For example, you have to make sure the water in an above-ground pool never falls below a be around 20 years. certain threshold, or the walls may cave in.

And of course, you should during winter. This can lead while cheaper, will often pool every week.

aged equipment, which can be very costly to replace.

What's the lifespan of a pool/spa?

Of course, an in-ground pool is designed to be a permanent installation. The average lifespan of a spa or above-ground pool tends to

However the smaller parts - such as gaskets, filter, pump, capacitors, etc. have never, ever, EVER let your varying lifespans. Used

quickly than brand new. The exact time will depend on how well you maintain your water's alkalinity and pH level. Expect to replace each of these pieces every

What's the biggest mistake people make in pool/spa maintenance?

Not shocking regularly, says Kathy. Shocking is a weekly process of adding pool or spa freeze over or refurbished equipment, chlorine to sanitize your

However, sometimes people forget to shock their pools. Perhaps they go on vacation, or they forget about their spa during the winter when they don't use it as much. This can lead to a buildup of algae.

Algae can be destructive to your plumbing, and very difficult to remove. You just can't do it with chemicals alone - you have to call in a professional. Dredging the algae out is a laborious process which may take several days to complete, depending on the severity.

I can't decide... pool, or spa?

When choosing between the two, the biggest consideration is space. Some people just don't have enough room in their yard for a pool or large spa. Remember that you need plenty of walking room on the perimeter for walking, socializing, and maintenance. You may ask your retailer to do an assessment of your available space.

Spas usually have more flexibility in where they can be placed. If you have room, you can put them on a deck, in a sunroom, or even in your basement.

The next biggest consideration is how you intend to use it. If you want to use it for exercise, a pool will give you much more space. If you just want a place to relax a bit and explore water's therapeutic properties, go for the spa.

Where can I get a pool/spa?

If you live in Huntington or Marion, you can visit your local Water World to ask for details. They offer curbside pickup, but they like it when you walk in, if only to say hi.

Otherwise, you can usually find retailers online and options at local home improvement retailers.





E6 March 27-28, 2021 Chronicle-Tribune

Out with the old and in with the new

A guide to ethical and lawful disposal while going about spring cleaning, renovating

By ROB BURGESS

rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com

Spring is here, and so is the tradition of seasonal clean-

While you focus on the goal of adding things to improve your home, it's important to dispose of the old stuff in an ethical and lawful way. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that Americans generate approximately 254 million tons of trash annually, so it's important that recycling and disposal is done properly.

"When waste isn't recycled, upcycled or composted, it ends up in landfills," said Wabash County Solid Waste District director Jen Rankin. "We all need to be mindful of how we dispose of these items."

To that end, Rankin offered the following tips to allow you to throw out or reuse, in a responsible manner, items that do not spark joy.

Textiles

Take a look in your closet. Are there items residing there which haven't been worn in years? If so, it may be time to pare down.

But, Rankin said you should make sure you're not simply tossing these garments in the trash as textiles make up about 9 percent of materials in landfills.

Rankin said a viable option to this unfortunate outcome would to donate unused apparel, turn it into cleaning rags.

Rankin said any available alternatives to "landfilling textiles" would be prefera-



Photo by Rob Burgess / Plain Dealer

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that Americans generate approximately 254 million tons of trash annually.

"When waste isn't recycled, upcycled or composted, it ends up in landfills. We all need to be mindful of how we dispose of these items."

JEN RANKIN

Wabash County Solid Waste District Director

Books

Avid readers often accumulate endless stacks of

But, after an initial reading, how often are you going to re-examine that text, anyway?

"Books are another item with many reuse and recycling alternatives to landfilling," said Rankin.

Rankin said she recommended setting up a neighborhood or community book swap.

And if no one wants your used stacks?

"Recycle by removing rags or rugs, or use them as the hardbacks and placing them in the recycling bins," said Rankin.

Alternatively, Rankin said unwanted books make great homemade hidden safes for valuables

If all else fails, Rankin said these can also be donated to a local thrift shop or homeless shelter.

Chemicals

Paints, chemicals and cleaners are dangerous and can build up over time due to their toxic natures.

But, when it's time to eliminate unneeded containers, Rankin said additional care was warranted.

"Don't flush or pour them out on the ground," said Rankin.

Rankin said to be sure to bring these sensitive materials to their local solid waste district or household hazardous waste (HHW) facility for disposal.

And if you're concerned fill.

about the cost of getting rid of this category of refuse, are still working, donating don't be. Rankin said most programs across the state devices to your local solid are free to residents.

Furniture

A typical dumpster will only hold so much. Sometimes you need to make room in a major way.

er items such as mattresses are part of your spring cleaning plans, donations would again be a great way to get rid of them without their county commissiontaking to the landfill.

Whatever you do, though, don't just leave these heftier units on the side of the road.

Rankin said you should dispose of these during local cleanup dates before finally landfilling them.

Electronics

Rankin said electronics are "another problem item." Rankin said in Indiana there is a ban against placing electronics in the landor bringing these electronic waste district for recycling are options.

Upcoming local cleanup dates

A pair of cleanup days If furniture or other larg- have been scheduled for early May in Wabash and North Manchester. Many communities have similar events planned through ers or city offices.

The city of Wabash will offer curbside spring cleanup from Monday, May 3 through Friday, May 7.

Piles for pickup should be no larger than 4 feet by 8 feet for collection by the Street Department person-

with these local cleanup dates, Rankin said Wabash's Tox-Away would be set from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 8, and North Manchester's dealer.com.

Rankin said these devices would be set from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 15.

Rankin said the gates would close "promptly" at 1 p.m. on both days.

Rankin said they do not accept furniture, mattresses, construction debris or trash of any kind at these events. Rankin said they only accept HHW. Rankin said they accept

paints and chemicals in-

cluding automotive fluids, tires, appliances, all electronic devices including TVs, any type of batteries and mercury devices such as fluorescent bulbs. Rankin said if have trash, mattresses, furniture, con-

to go to the local landfill or placed in the city dumpster on their cleanup days. For residents who live outside of city limits and

struction debris it will need

Scheduled to coincide have these items to dispose of, they will need to be taken to the local landfill. Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain

Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplain



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Building a pandemic-approved space

Fire pits allow for socially distancing while adding options to backyard fun

By PAYNE MOSES news@chronicle-tribune.com

The backyard has never been a better escape from ailments than in today's pandemic-swept world.

COVID-19 has made large public gatherings virtually impossible, so the confines of one's outdoor space acts as a safe haven. While there are several home-improvement options that people can add to their lists this year, installing a fire pit is the current hot commodity. From do-it-yourself projects to professionally installed hardscapes, there are plenty of ways to bring bonfires to your backyard.

While not everyone has the funds to use a landscaping company to build a professional fire pit, most chain retailer are stocked with many supplies and items needed to build one right at home.

"You can make it out of a lot of different material," Max Hardware employee Eventt Norris, of Marion, said.

Norris said most hardware on, has 18 years of experistores have stones, pavers and other materials people may need to build a fire pit.

If someone is on a budget and cannot afford to hire a ly and quickly. professional contractor to inimprovement store experts can help out.

to bring some sort of ideas actually getting ready to do its customers. and plans to see what you another one this spring." need as far as supplies before really using," he said.

While fire pits can be installed as do-it-yourself projects, you have to make sure adhere to other laws and regulations for your area.



ence installing hardscapes and outdoor designs. He said professionals can help make he said, but some orders were sure things are done correct-

"We've definitely seen in stall the pit, Norris said home the last 12 months an uptick in hardscape installations," Beck said. "We've done a "We would have to ask you couple of fire pits, and we're

Professional landscapers we recommend what you are can add fire pits to decks, yards and patios, he said, tailoring designs to customer's wants and needs.

Besides permanent pits, they meet building codes and Beck said many of his clients who are not sure how frequently they will use the Comfort Landscapes LLC. fire pit will often have a por-

The landscaping company has not had an overwhelming amount of fire pit requests, made on the assumption customers were going to be spending more time outside.

Other than formal paved stone fire pits, Beck revealed another alternative option Comfort Landscapes offers as putting a little bit of stone

"We actually in the past have done a couple of fire pits that are gas fire pits and time and materials, and even have a gas line there because cost," Beck said. they [the customer] didn't want to have to worry about logs and things," Beck said.

just wanting a DIY fire pit, Beck provided suggestions to follow. First of all, find an spend time with friends and owner Alan Beck, of Mari- table roll-away pit installed. area clear of brush and trees family.

that has great clearance from your house. Then, determine how large of a pit and area you need for seating. Lastly, determine the material to be burned, such as firewood, stone, or paper, and structural material to be put around it, often being stone.

"Fire pits can be as simple on the ground in the area of grass...so it doesn't have to be super invasive into your

Whether professionally done or made rough and ready by hand, fire pits are a For someone on a budget or modest addition to a home, that more importantly provide an easy, safe way to







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Protecting your foundation: Gutters play large role in protecting your investment

By Darin Jordan news@chronicle-tribune.com

Gutters are an important part of your house's long term health and sustain-

ability. When properly installed, they funnel the water off of your roof and away from your house. When not done correctly, they can damage the roof and foundations.

nel the water away from your foundation and can help prevent issues with basements leaking and also protects your facia boards as well." said Brad Baugh from Kingdom Roofing.

The facia board is what the gutter is attached to and if that is damaged it can open up the inside of the roof and rafters to damage,

Baugh says. Leaves, sticks, are clogged or blocked. and needles can clog up gutters and downspouts quickly unless you are careful

A gutter guard can do a lot to keep the gutters clean though, and with occasional cleaning the gutters should last a long time.

"You're not going to keep "The downspouts chan- 100 percent of the debris out of your gutter, but when stuff gets in the gutter it should flow through, right down your downspouts, that is another potential with the normal flow of water through the gutter." said Fritz Reissner from Hallett Gutter Cover.

Ice damming is another thing to look out for this season. As ice melts and refreezes in the spring, it can

Trees pose one of the get under the shingles and and Baugh do not advise biggest dangers to gutters, to the facia if the gutters doing it yourself, but they

> experts say. Storms are another time

> potential hazard for gutters that homeowners need to watch out for.

gutters and there could be granule loss from granules coming off of the shingles today will have a machine which may get stuck in a that they take with them to gutter guard.

If you have old gutters, source of problems. Some old gutters were made out of galvanized steel which run you don't have the opwill rust while modern aluminum ones will not. The ting and creating an issue rust can cause leaks and impair the water flow.

While you can do some fill up the gutter and start to gutter cleaning, Reissner much more dependable."

say getting a profession-Again, clear gutters is the al to do it is important so best way to prevent this, you do not run any risk of getting up on a ladder or on the roof.

Installation should also be done by professionals to get the best quality of work Sticks can get stuck in for the newest seamless

> "Most gutter contractors the site, and the machine will actually take our coil and form the gutters right on the spot" said Reissner. "So that with a seamless portunity for seeing splitwith waterflow. They're much more stable, they're much more sturdy, they're

Power washing adds new life to weathered exteriors

By KYLA RUSSELL news@chronicle-tribune.com

In the past year, cleaning up the curb appeal of a home has been at the forefront in

the minds of many Ameri-

Oftentimes when organic growth appears on the outside of houses, homeowners jump to having a full paint job done on the exterior of

spruce up the exterior of a ing.'

ested in power-washing the two options to completing the task: do-it-yourself or go professional.

Jordan Taylor recently started his own power washing company in Marion, Indiana after receiving professional training. His company uses an effective approach:

interior of their house dirty, exterior of their house dirty," Taylor said.

The reason the exterior of can create more issues than a loss in curb appeal.

the home for years causes the sional power-washing comhome to lose its brightness, energy, and the color of the own power washer from home," Taylor said. Organic home-improvement stores. growth can also eat away at protective layers and siding, causing rot and decay.

the visible growth, they want to thoroughly clean every the task themselves. area of the exterior.

growth ... but the reality is, their bank.

"The old way of cleaning homes involved taking a pressure washer and simply blowing off the organic growth ... but the reality is, you are only cleaning what can be seen."

JORDAN TAYLOR

the home. Although this is you are only cleaning what an option, it is not the most can be seen," Taylor said.

In tandem with pow-Power-washing provides er-washing, Taylor uses a a more affordable way to method called, 'soft-wash-

'Soft washing uses a chem-If a homeowner is interical, we apply the chemical, let it dwell, and then it is exterior of a home, there are rinsed off with a low-pressure hose," Taylor said.

This method allows the home to keep its color and vitality.

Along with sprucing up curb appeal, power-washing has another benefit.

"Not everyone has the ability to go out and buy new "No one wants to leave the homes, so this option allows owners to take pride in their so why would they leave the house. Everyone should have that opportunity," Taylor said.

The average price of havhouses begins to look dirty ing a professional powis due to organic growth- or er-washing job done in algae, Taylor says, which Grant County starts at a rate of \$199.

If one does not have an "Leaving this growth on interest in hiring a profespany, they can purchase their

Power washers at Lowe's home improvement store in Marion, IN range from \$99-Taylor said it's important \$500. After buying a power to do more than just remove washer, individuals have the opportunity of completing

No matter the occasion, "The old way of cleaning tidying up a home's curb homes involved taking a appeal is always ideal. Powpressure washer and sim- er-washing allows anyone ply blowing off the organic to do this, without breaking

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